



County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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HIV, STD and Hepatitis
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing
Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

MISSION STATEMENT

“As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system.”

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE (EMCC) MEETING

Minutes

Thursday, September 27, 2012

Members Present

Abbott, Stephen – District Five
Adler, Fred – District Three
Broyles, R.N., Linda – Co. Paramedics Agencies Committee
Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hospital Assoc. of SD/Imp Counties
Green, R.N., Katy – District One
Howard, R.N., LuAnn – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinator
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – District Four
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – District Two
Nevin, Jon – S.D. County Paramedic Association
Rice, Mike – Ambulance Association of S.D. County
Rothlein, Sgt. Jason – Law Enforcement
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Association
Rosenberger, R.N., Wendy – Base Hospital Nurse Coordinator

Vacant Positions

Binational EMCC
League of California Cities
Military Agencies
San Diego County Medical Society
San Diego Emergency Physicians' Society

In Attendance

Alvarez, John – Schaffer Ambulance
Bruton, Heather – S.D. Sheriff Office
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Mercy Air
Francis, Allen – CA Dept of
Corrections/CCHCS
Jawad, Souheil – Xtreme Care Ambulance
Leigh, Chief Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs
Association
Lorek, Kirstin – S.D. Sheriff Office
Russo, Joe – Rural Metro
Scaten, Brandon – Xtreme Care Ambulance

County Staff

Haynes, M.D., Bruce – EMS Medical Director
Metz, R.N., Marcy – EMS Chief
Pate, R.N., Rebecca

Recorder

Wolchko, Janet I.

I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Rosenberg, Chair, brought the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

There were no public comments or petitions submitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Linda Broyles, seconded by Sharon Carlson to approve the EMCC minutes from April 26, 2012. Motion carried.

IV. EMCC SUNSET REVIEW REPORT

Board of Supervisors' Policy A-74, "Citizen Participation in County Boards, Commissions and Committees," requires that each year, one fourth of all advisory committees conduct a "Sunset Review."

The "Sunset Review" report includes the advisory committee's level of involvement in County programs, actions accomplished or completed, and justification for continuance. After the "Sunset Review" report has been approved by the committee, it is signed by the EMCC Chairperson and forwarded to the Clerk of the Board.

A motion was made by Katy Green, seconded by Mary Meadows-Pitt to approve the EMCC Sunset Review Report. Motion carried.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

A. Prehospital/Hospital

Mike Rice reported on the September 13, 2012 EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee meeting.

Policy P-300, Paramedic Training Program Student Eligibility and P-302, Placement of Paramedic Interns in San Diego County were reviewed at the subcommittee meeting. Discussion was regarding out-of-county students that are doing internship with agencies in the County.

Up-to-date information and data on offload issues were presented.

VI. AMBULANCE ORDINANCE (Rebecca Pate, R.N.)

The Ambulance Ordinance was discussed at EMCC approximately six (6) months ago. At that time it was not approved due to discussion on whether additional levels of permitting should be created to cover Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reimbursement criteria. Basic Life Support (BLS) agencies providing Critical Care Transport (CCT) services have submitted a letter to CMS from Dr. Haynes explaining CCT transports by BLS agencies, and CMS has resumed providing reimbursement.

One addition has been made since the last meeting. County staff recommend adding language under inspections of each section that “If, at any time during an inspection, an agency representative, officer, director or agent thereof knowingly makes a false, misleading or fraudulent statement or engages in fraudulent behavior, the Permit Officer may order the suspension or revocation of the ambulance permit as provided for in Section 610.501.”

A motion was made by Mike Rice, seconded by Linda Broyles to approve the Ambulance Ordinance with suggested changes on the draft document.

Discussion on the motion included operating in an Exclusive Operating Area (EOA) and prohibition or authorization that is needed for occasions when ALS providers operate in another EOA.

It was decided that language on Page 29 of the Ambulance Ordinance under SEC. 610.713 regarding “Operation in the County as CCT, BLS or ALS provider without proper authorization to do so.” would cover the inquiry and issue discussed.

By previous motion and second, EMCC members voted to approve the Ambulance Ordinance with the noted changes on the draft document. Motion carried.

Based on today’s action the Ambulance Ordinance will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

VII. EMT 2010 UPDATE (Rebecca Pate, R.N.)

An update of the EMT 2010 process and EMT certification was presented to the EMCC. The information was also presented at the Fire Chiefs meeting.

A. Open Investigations

1. New applicants for EMT certification: 16
 - 4 with public agencies such as fire departments
 - 12 listed as “none” (not listed with an agency)
2. Current EMTs under investigation: 47
 - 7 were from private agencies
 - 16 work for public agencies
 - 18 listed “none”
 - 6 listed “other” as being their employer (those who may work with hospitals, at special events, companies and casinos).
3. Agencies should notify EMS of new hires within the last two (2) years if it is within the period of their last certification.

B. Probation

1. Currently 52 EMT’s are on probation, most for DUI’s
 - 4 from private agencies

- 21 from public agencies
- 21 were listed as “none”
- 6 listed as “other”

2. Probationary check-in is every quarter.

C. Revoked/Suspended

1. Since the EMT 2010 regulations were put into place, 24 certifications have been revoked or suspended
 - 4 from public agencies
 - 6 from private agencies
 - 14 listed as “none”

D. Denied

1. 9 applications have been denied since 2010
 - 3 from public agencies
 - 6 listed as “none”

E. New Cases: Since January 21, 2012 there are 80 new open cases, either new applicants with conviction backgrounds, or current EMT’s with subsequent arrests.

F. Hearing/Cases

This year there have been three Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) hearings and one that is in the process of being scheduled. Typically cases that have been open greater than 6 months are with DUI’s as they take time to be resolved in court and to fulfill requirements.

G. *Discussion:*

EMCC discussed DUI notification, open investigations and the State Model Disciplinary Orders (MDO) for EMTs. Sharon Carlson added that the Board of Registered Nursing has taken a strict stance on handling evaluation and suspension for DUI’s.

Most of the DUI’s are straight forward. The individual may not necessarily have an underlying substance abuse problem that can be a danger to patients. Evaluation includes statement of facts, an interview, and a substance abuse evaluation by an addiction physician to determine if it is a onetime event or an underlying problem.

Sgt. Rothlien added that guidelines are set by the court regarding suspension depending on the level of alcohol or intoxication, prior criminal history and whether it is related to an accident or standard DUI. A first time .08 to .10 DUI is probably going to be a 90 day suspension of their license on a first offense.

VIII. EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)

- A. Congratulations to Dr. Jim Dunford from San Diego City Fire who received the CAL/ACEP EMS Achievement Award last June.

- B. The influenza vaccine is now available. The CDC recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older receive the vaccine. Vaccination helps prevent illness, life threatening complications of influenza and transmission to others. Some jurisdictions have moved to mandatory vaccinations.
- C. Palomar Hospital moved into its new facility on August 17, 2012. Some services at the downtown campus will remain: urgent care, labor and delivery, pediatrics and behavioral health services.
- D. The 2010 trauma report is available on the EMS website and includes information on trauma patients and cause of injury.
- E. This year EMS will be conducting protocol review. Committees are being reconvened to review the treatment guidelines and policies. It has been suggested to develop a policy for fire line medics.
- F. The Joint Commission certifies primary stroke centers and has started a new level called comprehensive stroke center which will offer endovascular and intra-arterial tPA as well as intravenous tPA for therapeutic measures.
- G. The State has released EMS for Children (EMS-C) regulations for comment. Comments are due October 2, 2012. EMS-C regulations will define four (4) levels of receiving hospitals, data collection requirements, personnel requirements and quality improvement standards.
- H. CAHAN is requiring users to update their password.
- I. The State has shown interest in the Community Paramedic Program. Community paramedicine would have different and expanded rules for paramedics, additional education, and work with homeless and repetitive users. In rural areas they may conduct medical evaluations, suture minor acute injuries, and do chronic illness training, for example with congestive heart failure and diabetes monitoring.
- J. *Comments and Questions:*
 - 1. Trauma

Dr. Jacoby asked if the trauma report online breaks down the number of patients transported under the trauma resource designated. Discussion ensued on trauma designation, number of patients, trauma resource, over and under triage and appropriate care. Linda Rosenberg added that Sharp Memorial had over 800 trauma resources in 2011 and is reviewing their data.

In February, trauma guidelines were sent to the hospitals for treatment of patients on anti-coagulants and falls. Information is provided in the guidelines on reversing anti-coagulants, and supports rapid transport to the trauma center if that hospital does not have neurosurgical capabilities. If an injury does not show on the initial CT scan, it is recommended that the patient be rescanned in 4 to 6 hours depending on

the judgment of the physician. Hospital emergency rooms have posted the guidelines.

2. Palomar

Kelly Forman shared that Caltrans has approved the Palomar helipad downtown, and it has been extended to be a designated pickup point.

IX. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, Chief EMS)

- A. On June 7, 2012, “CPR Day” was held in collaboration with EMS, the American Heart Association (AHA), American Red Cross (ARC) and San Diego Project Heartbeat. San Diego Project Heartbeat offered 300 manikins for locations to use during the event. 30 agencies participated at 52 locations throughout the County. In San Diego County, 3,048 individuals were trained in adult hands only CPR, which surpassed the goal of training “2012 in 2012”; 12,397 were trained in Southern California. It is anticipated that “CPR Day” will become an annual event during National CPR week. Marcy Metz thanked everyone involved for their participation in the event.

An example was given where a “Sidewalk CPR” participant administered compression only CPR on a woman who was exercising on a treadmill and collapsed. The individual provided CPR until paramedics arrived.

Kelly Forman received special recognition for teaching adult compression CPR to a high school freshman class.

- B. September is National Preparedness month. September 8, 2012 was the 10th Anniversary of the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC). MRC volunteers were recognized at Petco Park and invited to attend the Padre game after the event. San Diego MRC has 1,000 volunteers that have helped during the H1N1 season and fire season.
- C. The Statewide Medical Health Drill is on November 15, 2012. The exercise will have an earthquake scenario. Hospitals will focus on neonatal ICU evaluations and include the 7 pm to 11 pm shift. Sharon Carlson said that they will also practice high rise rescue with the fire departments. There will be a Hospital Available Beds for Emergency Disasters (HAVBED) bed count and description of beds that is annually tested during the drill.
- D. The Health Services Capacity Taskforce will meet on Friday, October 5, 2012 from 10:30 am to 11:30 am at Sharp Memorial. The taskforce helps to prepare for and assess the flu season.
- E. The internet version of the Quality Collector System (QCS) that links hospitals, agencies, and the County went into production this month. The first three weeks of training included base hospitals, satellite hospitals and agencies. QCS CEMSIS will not be closed out until iQCS is functioning effectively. Linda Rosenberg made comments regarding the iQCS screen colors, printing in the radio room and the time to move between screens.

- F. EMS will be analyzing the fee structure in preparation for County Budget Build. Fees being reviewed include ambulance inspection, permitting fees and certification fees. During the next two EMCC meetings a financial analysis will be presented.
- G. Work is continuing on the Beacon EMS Hub. There are twice a month meetings with Beacon to work on the bidirectional connection between the QCS and the Beacon EMS Hub.
- H. Additional Items
 - 1. Dr. Haynes mentioned that two deputies were in the hospital with severe injuries after a shooting incident. Sgt. Rothlein gave an update on the deputy's injuries. Credit was given to the fire service transport that responded in a timely manner.
 - 2. Sharon Carlson added that Nick Vent will be giving a presentation on chemical suicides, exposure and response at Sharp Spectrum on October 23, 2012 from 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. Please register at sharp.com/classes and events.
 - 3. September is Emergency Preparedness Month and October is the "Great Shakeout". Sharp Healthcare is having their first annual Disaster Expo this Saturday outside at Spectrum Center from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. The expo will have a search and rescue unit, the "shaker trailer" and McGruff the crime dog. Emergency preparedness supplies will be available for purchase. Mike Rice offered the AMR state disaster medical support units for the event. The DA is having their Rx take back Day and electronics recycle drop-off on the other side of the parking lot.

X. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The EMCC October meeting conflicts with the Overcrowding Summit on October 25, 2012. The EMCC committee is required to meet once a quarter and an alternate date should be discussed as the November meeting falls on Thanksgiving weekend. A proposed date and time for the next EMCC meeting was Wednesday, October 24, 2012.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Submitted by,
Janet I. Wolchko, Administrative Secretary III